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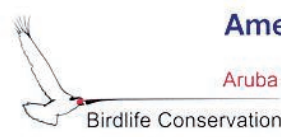
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American Home Assurances unveil their 10th anniversary calendar



American Home Managing Director Pracash Gupta, wife Niti and Photographer Greg Peterson



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2011 calendar

see story on page 5

Women's Expo 2010 at the Radisson explores every aspect of being female

The diversity of interests of today's modern and informed woman was addressed during the Di Shopping Women's Expo 2010 this past weekend at the Radisson Resort, Casino and Spa in Palm Beach.

The lower level of conference rooms and ballroom was filled to capacity with vendors of fashion, accessories, cosmetics, health supplements and women's products. Guest artists and day spas offered free makeovers, haircuts, foot and back massages, facials and fashion shows for three solid days of feminine fun.

Continued on page 3



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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Brazil claims 'D-Day' victory on Rio slums



Residents flee the conflict area during the raid in the Morro do Alemão shantytown

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AFP) - Brazil claimed victory yesterday in its crackdown on the slums of Rio de Janeiro after an unprecedented military operation to drive out drug traffickers and secure the notorious favelas.

Some 2,600 paratroopers, marines and elite police

backed up by helicopters and armored personnel carriers led a pre-dawn assault on the traffickers' bastion of Grota, a lawless city within a city with a population of 400,000.

Grota is just one of 15 favelas that make up the Complexo do Alemão, a sprawling maze of slums in northern Rio. And

there was no mention of the arrests of hundreds of traffickers claimed to be the target of the operations.

"This conquest is a decisive step forward for our public safety policy," Rio state Governor Sergio Cabral told TV Globo. "Today, we are turning a page in Rio's history."

Yet despite shouts of victory and the soaring rhetoric of senior officials, it remains to be seen whether the city, which is preparing to host the 2016 Olympics and matches in the 2014 soccer World Cup, has indeed been made safer.

"This is our D-Day," military police spokesman Colonel Lima Castro told reporters, referring to the historic allied invasion of Normandy in World War II. "We will return this community to the people of Rio de Janeiro."

WikiLeaks unleashes flood of confidential US cables

WASHINGTON (AFP) - WikiLeaks yesterday unleashed a torrent of US cables detailing a wide array of potentially explosive diplomatic episodes, from a tense nuclear standoff with Pakistan to Saudi Arabia's king repeatedly suggesting bombing Iran, the New York Times reported.

The cables describe the bazaar-like bargaining over the repatriation of Guantanamo Bay detainees, a Chinese government bid to hack into Google, and quote Saudi King Abdullah as saying the United States should strike Iran to halt its nuclear program, telling it to "cut off the head of the snake."

They also detail plans to reunite the Korean peninsula after the North's eventual collapse, according to The New York Times, one of a handful of international media outlets that gained early access to the documents.

The cables also detail fresh suspicions about Afghan corruption, Saudi donors financing Al-Qaeda, and the US failure to prevent Syria from providing a massive stockpile of weapons to the Lebanese Hezbollah militia since 2006.

They include closed-door remarks that could stoke scandal, including Yemen's president telling a top US general: "We'll continue saying the bombs are ours, not yours" when discussing secretive US strikes on Al-Qaeda in his country, and a description of Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi as always being attended by a "voluptuous blonde" Ukrainian nurse.

Most of the 251,287 cables -- many of which are marked "classified" but none "top secret" -- date back to 2007, but the release also includes cables going back as far as 1966, The

New York Times said.

The whistle-blower website's chief Julian Assange had earlier described the release as a "diplomatic history of the United States" that would cover "every major issue" as governments braced for damaging revelations.

"We can see already in the past week or so that the United States has made movements to try to disarm the effect that this could have," he said.

The White House slammed the release as a "reckless and dangerous action" that puts lives at risk around the world.

The Pentagon, which was infuriated by the website's publication of secret Afghanistan and Iraq war logs earlier this year, also condemned the latest release and unveiled new steps designed to prevent future disclosures.

Britain shivers in 'ridiculously low' temperatures



A general view of motorists driving through the heavy snowfall, in Stanley, Englan.

LONDON, England (AFP) - Parts of Britain experienced record low temperatures overnight, including minus 17 Celcius in Wales, forecasters said yesterday amid warnings of more heavy snow to come.

"You are seeing some ridiculously low temperatures -- it has been a bit like it is in the middle of Scandinavia," said weather forecaster

Michael Dukes.

The temperature in Llysidi-nam near Llandrindod Wells in Wales plunged to minus 17.3C -- the principality's lowest ever temperature for November and Britain's coldest for the month since 1985.

The Met Office, Britain's national forecaster, issued severe weather warnings yesterday for large chunks of eastern

and southern Scotland and eastern England, warning of heavy snowfalls. Ireland also experienced heavy snow and Dublin airport was disrupted.

Drivers have been urged to be careful in badly-hit areas, and roadside emergency firms in Britain reported a huge surge in calls for help.

The weather has also disrupted several sporting events.

Parts of Scotland and north-east England have already seen well over a foot (30 centimetres) of snow since the start of the cold snap last week, and forecasters said the flurries could reach London in the coming days.

The unusual weather has been caused by high pressure over Greenland and low pressure in the Baltic, forcing cold winds from the north-east across Europe.

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MAMBO Christmas shopping calendar 2010

ORANJESTAD – The Association of Main street Merchants, MAMBO, is introducing its shopping calendar for the Christmas season. The main street will be closed to facilitate shopping on the following days:

- Saturday, December 4, shopping combined with a visit of Sinterklaas with his Zwarte Piets (Black Petes); and
- Saturday, December 11 and 18 shopping combined with a visit of Santa Claus

There will be entertainment by Gaita groups, typical groups and on December 4, there will be a special presentation by Pierewietje for the Sinterklaas event. The event

will be from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the entrance of Arcades Playground, next to Fuji Image. The businesses are well prepared with a wide variation of products especially for the holidays.

MAMBO reminds everyone that there are various parking spaces available in the center of Oranjestad, you don't have to walk far. Besides that there are various businesses that will open on Sundays, to give the community ample shopping opportunity to choose their gifts.

MAMBO wishes the whole Aruban community a merry shopping season, in Oranjestad's main street.

Venezuelan oil for Suriname



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez (R) receives a painting as a gift from Suriname's President Desi Bouterse during a ceremony in which they signed four economic cooperation agreements at the presidential palace in Paramaribo, Suriname. Hugo Chavez agreed Friday to supply fuel to Suriname under preferential terms and said he hopes to build a close alliance with its newly elected leader, Desi Bouterse.

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Women's Expo 2010 at the Radisson explores every aspect of being female

Continued from page 1



Aruba Tourism Association shows an interest in women



Shabby chic demonstrates holiday style

From exclusive cosmetic brands to the latest in Italian shoe fashion of La Boutique and vintage holiday dresses and accessories of Shabby Chic, it could be found, all in one place.

Not only commercial interests were represented; Foundation for Battered Women and the Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Group were among a number of organizations maintaining booths dedicated to helping women in distress. Jolly Holding, parent company of Stern Motors, set up a "Toys for Joy" station where expo attendees could drop off items to assist them in their holiday campaign to provide Christmas cheer for the children of needy families.

The runway was busy with fashion shows throughout the three days; expo guests were provided with a good size shopping bag to cart home all the information and free samples provided by dozens of vendors. Discounts were offered on a wealth of goods, just in time for gift shopping for the holidays, and each purchase of 25 Aruban florins awarded a raffle ticket for a



Free foot massage

new car, suitably pink in color.

Women ruled at the Radisson this past weekend; the Di Shopping Women's Expo 2010 was fun and informative, with surprises and prizes for all who attended.

by Rosalie Klein





Another "First" for Cas Animal

Last week we introduced Kiki Arndt, founder of Cas Animal, a foundation dedicated to saving the stray and abused dogs and cats of Aruba. Kiki now cares for 72 dogs in her home and 38 cats at a friend's; this is an estimate, as it increases on a nearly daily basis.

Last week, readers met Riu and Dorothy, two abandoned dogs who have become inseparable companions and Cas Animal's poster mascots. This week we introduce the most recently saved of Kiki's crew: First.

First got his name because he was the first dog to be cared for by Nikita, a new vet

at the Contreras Clinic, which works closely with Kiki in her efforts. She received an emergency call and found this beautiful young dog collapsed in the bushes, unable to even walk. Initially they thought he had been hit by a car and his back was broken, but actually realized he was just too weak from advanced Tick Disease.

First was a bit snappish and frightened when Kiki found him, but she is accustomed to that. His blood count was so low, medication alone would not save him; he required a blood transfusion. It was Riu to the rescue with the live blood transfusion,

"He is really the hero of this story," Kiki insists, "he was a good, calm boy throughout the process."

The possibility that First was too sick to produce his own red blood cells still existed; only after a few days would they know if his bone marrow was undamaged as the disease was so advanced, but he showed improvement and is better by the day. First also demonstrated that once he was feeling better he was a sweet and loving animal; Kiki and the vet estimate him to be about 9 months old.

First's story has a very happy ending. Miriam, an employee at Contreras Clinic formed a bond with him and took him home once his blood level was acceptable. Aside from his extreme debilitation, the clinic also had to remove a collar that had been placed on him when just a puppy before being abandoned, which had become imbedded in his neck as he grew.

If you are interested in providing a happy ending for one of Kiki's many charges, contact her at 742-8732 to adopt a dog; transporting them to the U.S. is very easy and she will walk you through the process. Donations are also appreciated as it costs 3,500 Aruban florins daily, (\$2,000) to feed all the animals.

Kiki also was subject to an accident earlier this week; a delivery truck pulled out into traffic without looking and has disabled her Animal Ambulance. It will require 6,000 Aruban florins to be operational again and she suffered cuts and bruises as well. Donations are welcome through CMB Bank account # 25762110-Cas Animal.

by Rosalie Klein



First, Kiki and his new owner Miriam

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American Home Assurances unveil their 10th anniversary calendar



Juan David Yrausquin receives the first calendar

As a gesture to demonstrate their appreciation to loyal clients and unity with the community, American Home Assurance Company decided ten years ago to produce an annual calendar which showcased various aspects of Aruban culture, nature and accomplishments, providing a beautiful way to mark the days through the coming year.

On Thursday evening, November 25 American Home management celebrated the 10th anniversary of this practice, expressed thanks to their

clients and acknowledged their employees with an elegant cocktail party at the Westin Aruba Resort where they unveiled the new calendar for 2011.

2009 marked the year the calendars featured the theme "Imagine Aruba" – an Aruba that protects its wetlands and bird preserves, which contain 244 species of avian, according to Aruba Birdlife Conservation Foundation President Greg Peterson. It is Peterson's stunning photos, capturing every aspect of bird life on the

island, which grace the pages of the calendar.

1000 calendars were donated in 2009 and 2010 to the Aruba Red Cross for them to sell and raise funds for their work. This year American Home Managing Director Prakash Gupta was proud to present the 1000 calendars to the Birdlife Conservation Foundation, to assist them in their efforts to see laws drafted and passed, which will protect and preserve Aruba's environment.

Greg Peterson also told the gathering he is proposing to have the Burrowing Owl, beloved to islanders and called Shoco, named as Aruba's national bird. Indeed, January 2011 features a rare picture by Greg of a full nest of young owls.

The first calendar was presented to Parliamentarian Juan-David Yrausquin, while Greg expressed the hope that he would help in his mission to see legislation passed which would preserve and protect Aruba's bird population and their habitats.

The calendars presented to



The ladies of American Home Assurance

the foundation are for sale for 12.50 Aruban florins, (\$7.25 U.S.) and can be purchased by calling telephone numbers 593-2859 or 731-2173. They are unique and beautiful souvenirs of the island, and would be very appreciated as holiday gifts. Greg's breathtaking pictures can be seen displayed in Aruba's cruise ship terminal and the Reina Beatrix International Airport.

by Rosalie Klein



Sci-Tech

Copenhagen plans super highways ... for bikes



Copenhagen traffic jam

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Copenhagen, one of the world's most bicycle-friendly cities, has begun turning its extensive network of cycle paths into bike highways in an effort to push more commuters to leave their cars at home.

Considered one of Europe's two "bicycle capitals" along with Amsterdam, Copenhagen counts more bicycles than people and cycling is so popular that its numerous bike paths can become congested.

Two-wheeler traffic jams are especially regular on the main Noerrebrogade thoroughfare used by around 36,000 cyclists a day.

"You have to elbow your way in to go forward and some cyclists aren't always thoughtful," complains 22-year-old university student Lea Bresell.

The creation of bike highways "comes right on time", says Danish Cyclist Federation spokesman Frits Bredal.

"Copenhagen's roads are overloaded with people who want to ride their bicycles in all kinds of weather," he says.

If in the 1960s Danes viewed the car as the symbol of freedom, the bicycle has assumed that role today, Bredal says.

"It's a mode of transportation used by all social classes, even politicians ride bikes," he says.

It is on crowded Noerrebrogade -- the busiest bicycle street in Europe, according to the cyclist association -- that city planners have decided to build the first of Copenhagen's environmentally friendly boulevards.

The jammed bike paths

will be widened up to four metres (yards) on either side of the road, which will itself will be reserved for buses only.

The idea is to make Noerrebrogade "Europe's great cycling street", says Andreas Roehl, the Copenhagen municipality's bicycle programme manager who is also known as "Mister Bike".

But Roehl is not content with making life easier for Copenhagen's inner-city cyclists: he wants to get suburbanites out of their cars and onto two wheels as well.

His goal is to hike the percentage of suburban commuters cycling to and from the city from the 37 percent it is today to over 50 percent by 2015.

Within the city, 55 percent of all commuters already travel by bike, according to the municipality.

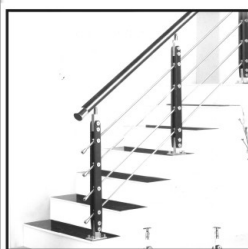
Copenhagen's bike highways of tomorrow will be dotted with pit stops where it will be possible to pump up tyres, fix a chain and have a drink of water, Roehl says.

And synchronised traffic lights prioritising bicycles over cars will bring riders from the suburbs into Copenhagen "quickly and safely," he says.

That "could lead car-addicted suburbanites to take their bikes to go to Copenhagen," says cyclist Bresell, for whom bike highways will "make life even more difficult for motorists and easier for cyclists."

Already Copenhagen stands out among other European capitals for its cycling infrastructure, counting more than 390 kilometres (242 miles) of bike paths.

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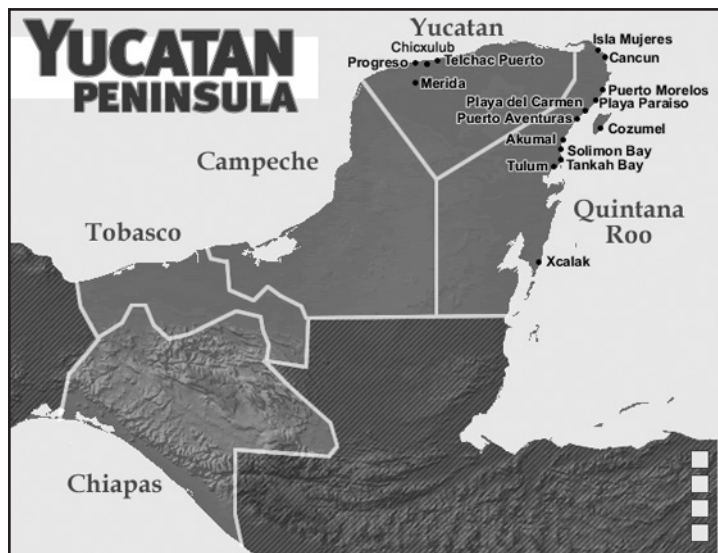
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Cancun, climate summit host and example of threats: NGO



MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, which will host a UN climate conference opening today, is one of Latin America's regions most threatened by global warming, an international NGO underlined.

"The Mexican Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable zones faced with climate change," said Ignacio March, Mexico director of The Na-

ture Conservancy, at a news conference in the Mexican capital.

Rising sea levels, predicted to increase by four to nine millimeters per year, threaten the area's exposed Caribbean beaches which already suffer frequent damage from hurricanes, March said.

They also threaten kilometers (miles) of mangroves, which "are the most effective

green infrastructure for protecting coasts against hurricanes and tropical storms," he added.

The storms also leave large quantities of dead trees in their wake, which pose a serious fire risk, he said.

Off the coast, the world's second biggest coral reef after Australia's Great Barrier Reef is already suffering destruction scientists blame on warmer seas.

And the threatened Maya Forest, which stretches across Belize, Guatemala and the Yucatan, is the second-largest remaining rainforest in the Americas, the second largest to absorb carbon, after the Amazon.

The November 29 to December 10 summit in Cancun -- a massive development which is Mexico's most popular tourist destination -- will seek to advance efforts towards a post-2012 climate treaty after the near-disaster of the December 2009 Copenhagen summit.

US shuts down counterfeit goods, music sites

WASHINGTON (AFP) — US authorities have shut down dozens of websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated music, five months after a crackdown on sites offering movie downloads.

Cori Bassett, a spokeswoman for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, part of the Department of Homeland Security, said ICE had "executed court ordered seizure warrants against a number of domain names."

The ICE spokeswoman declined to provide further details, citing an "ongoing investigation," but Torrent Freak, a website about the popular BitTorrent file-sharing protocol, published a list of more than 70 sites it said

had been targeted.

A visitor to the sites Saturday is met with a message reading: "This site has been seized by ICE -- Homeland Security Investigations, pursuant to a seizure warrant issued by a United States District Court."

It informs visitors that copyright infringement is a federal crime carrying a penalty of five years in prison and a 250,000-dollar fine, while trafficking in counterfeit goods carries a 10-year sentence and a fine of two million dollars.

The sites targeted included burberryoutletshop.com, cheapscarfshop.com, dvdcollectionsale.com, handbag-c o m . c o m , mydreamwatches.com, rap-

godfathers.com, sunglassesmall.com, torrent-finder.com and usaoutlets.net.

The move comes almost exactly five months after US authorities launched a crackdown on websites offering pirated copies of movies.

The domain names of nine websites offering first-run movies were seized in late June along with bank, Paypal and advertising accounts as part of what US officials dubbed "Operation in Our Sites."

US authorities said at the time that "Operation In Our Sites" would target not only pirated movies but other items distributed over the Internet such as music, counterfeit pharmaceuticals, software, electronics and games.

Health & Living

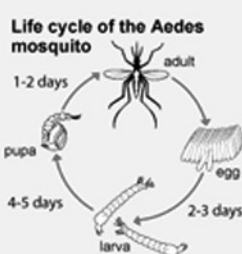


Dengue Kills

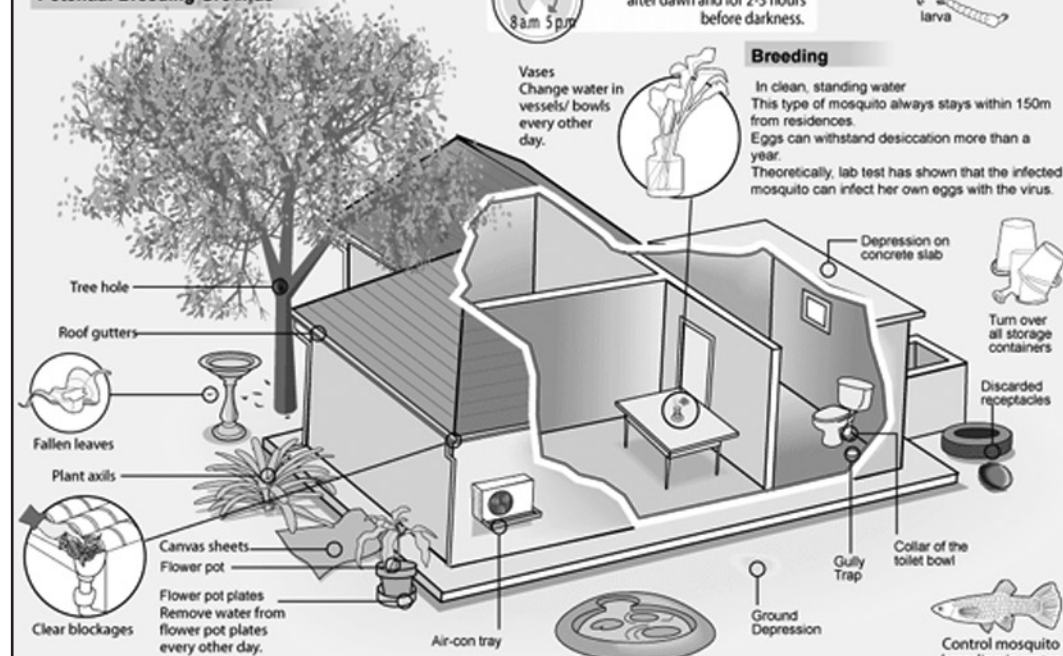
Keep your environment clean

Dengue fever is a virus infection caused by the dengue virus. There are 4 kinds of dengue viruses spread among humans by Aedes mosquitoes (Aedes aegypti or Aedes albopictus). It is a flu-like illness which can turn out to be severe. Dengue is also known as Dandy and Breakbone fever.

Dengue is completely preventable. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for Dengue. The best solution is controlling mosquitoes and reducing mosquito density. About 50 per cent of dengue patients are reported from the Western Province.



Potential Breeding Grounds



Symptoms

Dengue Fever
High fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, severe headache, nausea, pain beneath the eyes, muscle and bone pain, sometimes a rash.

Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever
It is a complication of dengue. Internal bleeding, red spots on skin, bleeding from nose and gums, vomiting with blood, dark stools. Haemorrhagic version of disease can kill by internal bleeding.

What to do?

Maintain body temperature below 39°C. consult a doctor if the fever remains more than three days.

Seek medical attention immediately. If not managed in time 10%-50% will die.

Treatment

• No cure
• Patients given bed rest, fluids, paracetamol
Never take aspirin if you have dengue because it may increase your tendency to bleed.

Do you know...?

• Dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever are the most common mosquito-borne viral diseases in the world.

• Only the female mosquito feeds on blood. This is because they need the protein found in blood to produce eggs. Male mosquitoes feed only on plant nectar.

• The female Aedes mosquito searches for suitable places to lay their eggs.

• The mosquito is attracted by the body odours, carbon dioxide and heat emitted from animals or humans.

Infographics:
Nalin Balasuriya
Sources: WHO, Epidemiology Unit

Doctors are always working to preserve our health and cooks to destroy it, but the latter are the more often successful.

~Denis Diderot



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Don't take a Holiday from exercise



If you don't have time to get to the gym during the holidays, you can incorporate exercise into your daily activities, an expert says.

"It's important to maintain your fitness as much as possible during the holidays, but don't worry if you're too busy to go to the gym. Many holiday activities offer ways to get the 30 minutes of daily moderate physical activity that your body needs to help fight off many forms of cancer and other diseases," Karen Basen-Engquist, a professor in the behavioral science department at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, said in a center news release.

She offered the following tips for incorporating walking into your shopping trips:

Park far from the mall or store entrance. If you take the train or bus, get off a stop or two early. When you're inside the mall or store, use the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator. If possible, carry your purchases instead of using a shopping cart. This will help boost your heart rate and strengthen your muscles.

"For walking to count as exercise, you should be a little out of breath and feel your heart beating a little faster. You should be able to talk in short sentences, but not sing holiday songs," Basen-Engquist said.

You can get an aerobic workout while preparing the house for guests and cleaning up after they leave. Focus on chores that use large muscle groups, such as the legs and back. These include vacuuming, mopping, scrubbing, gardening and making multiple trips upstairs to put away laundry or holiday decorations.

"The most important thing is to get your heart rate up at a consistent level. You should sustain activity for at least 10 minutes without stopping," Basen-Engquist said.

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There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikki Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while pro-

viding a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

November is the month to get acquainted with Nikki Beach as they are offering an introductory dinner special of only \$15 for a three-course meal or a different Entrée de Jour each day of the week for only \$10. This is available from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., so you can finish up an afternoon spent on the beach, catch a meal after a dive with the adjacent SCUBA shop, or savor your supper along with one of the most spectacular locations to watch our amazing Aruban sunsets.

Jan and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikki Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the tradi-

tional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

Some extremely interesting items on the menu captured our interest along with very moderate prices; aside from the November special you can expect an a la carte tab that will add to your enjoyment. Their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that reveals expertise in several notable cuisines; a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Pack-

age that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeacharuba.com.

by Rosalie Klein



Computer meltdown leaves millions of Aussies without cash

SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) — A freak computer glitch at Australia's biggest bank froze cash machines and left millions of people struggling to access their money.

National Australia Bank

(NAB) said a corrupted file wiped out a huge number of transactions, including salary payments and transfers, and crashed some ATMs, angering many customers who were facing a weekend without money.

Spokeswoman Meaghan Telford said NAB was opening branches on Saturday and Sunday and bringing in extra call-centre staff as technicians scrambled to fix the problem.

Telford said the rogue file knocked out transactions on Wednesday, including salary deposits, bill payments and transfers to other banks, and then work to fix the problem hit Thursday and Friday's business. As the electronic system buckled, some ATMs had crashed, she said, without revealing how many.

Customers using microblogging site Twitter reported chaos with their bank accounts as mystifying sums appeared and disappeared, leaving many unable to withdraw cash.

Telford said NAB had cleared most of the delayed transactions but could not pre-

dict when the system would be back to normal. According to national news agency AAP, international banking giant HSBC's transactions to other banks, payroll deposits and direct debits were also affected, as NAB clears payments for HSBC in Australia.

NAB also warned on its website that its Internet banking was slow as millions of customers checked their accounts.

The meltdown comes at a time of growing discontent towards Australia's "big four" banks over rising interest rates and a swathe of minor fees, with even Prime Minister Julia Gillard urging unhappy customers to switch lenders.

Last week 250 investors brought a multi-million dollar lawsuit against NAB claiming it failed to properly disclose its exposure to toxic US debt during the financial crisis.

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The Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Group is selling a 2011 agenda, and every woman you know who juggles home life and work will appreciate this beautifully laid out appointment book. Not only can she easily check out the week coming at a glance, but it has informative pages regarding breast self examination, and contact information for breast cancer support groups in Aruba, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Curacao, Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica.

It is punctuated with plenty of pages for additional notes and gorgeous artwork and photographs from the various

Caribbean nations. A beautiful bookmark featuring the artwork of Mary Joan board member and breast cancer survivor Anneliz Jonkhout helps one easily keep their place and their lives on schedule.

The Breast Cancer Agenda is a donation from AstraZeneca Oncology to the various individual cancer support groups of the featured islands, and all proceeds from the sales help them continue their important work. If you have to play Secret Santa to a female colleague, or want to reward all the woman you know this holiday season with something they will use and enjoy, this is, most certainly, the perfect gift. It sells for only 25 Aruban florins, (\$14.30 U.S.) and can be purchased at the Mary Joan Foundation center located on the ATCO premises in Sabana Blanco; contact number 560-8260 or e-mail: maryjoan-aruba@hotmail.com.

-by Rosalie Klein

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Loyal Aruba visitors honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba



Recently, Aruba honored Mr. Michael, Mrs. Suzanne and their son Michelin Faulkner, from North Carolina, as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The family have been vacationing on Aruba for 20 years. They say they love to spend their vacations here because Aruba has beautiful beaches, and a nice weather. The like to visit the Wesley United Methodist

Church who they consider family. Also Taxi # 58, Cosmo and all their local friends are dear family members.

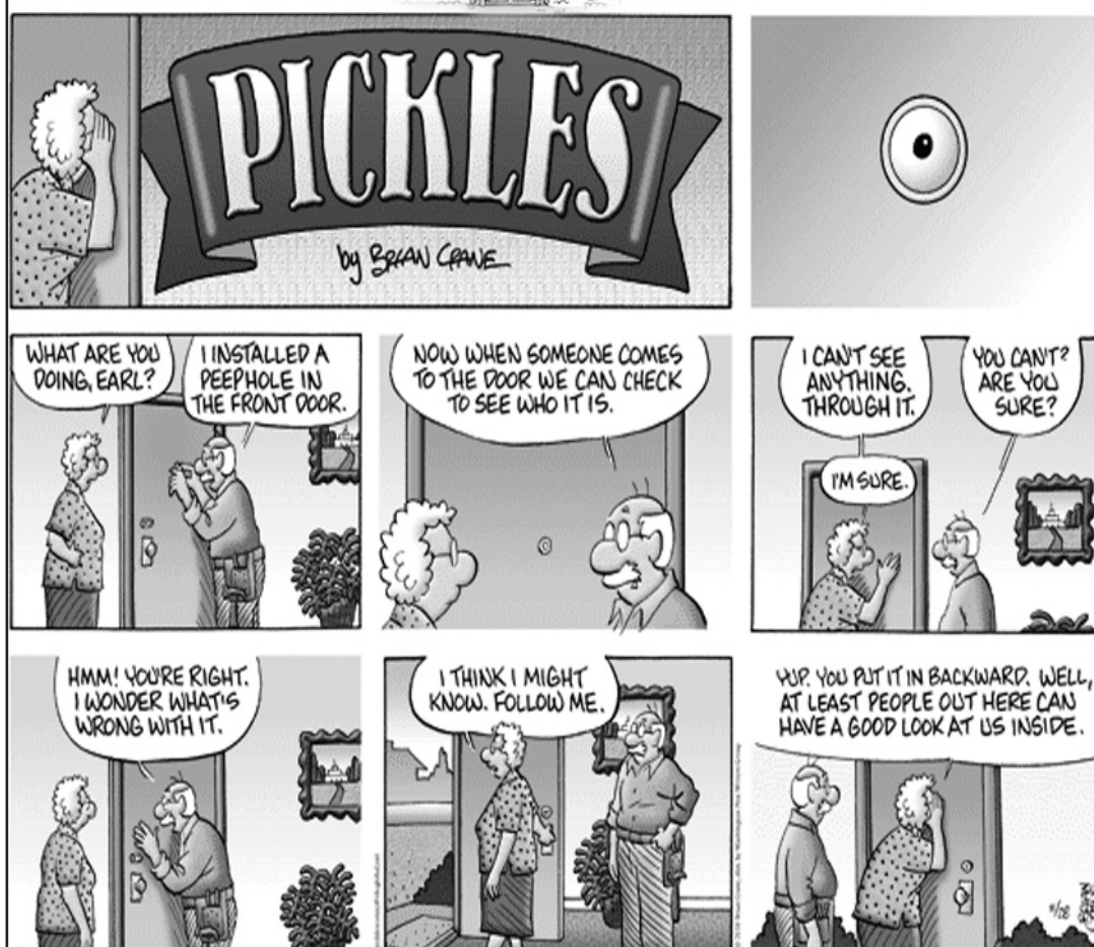
Also honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill are Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Shernan Hige, from Michigan for their 27th consecutive visit to our paradise island. They love to come here for our friendly people, nice climate, but also to relax,

scuba dive and sail trips.

During a small ceremony on the honorees behalf, Aruba Tourism Authority rep. Castro Perez handed them a beautiful certificate thanking them for their love and appreciation of our island.

Also present at the occasion was Mrs. Xiomara Morris, Activities Coordinator at the Casa Del Mar.

COMICS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Exile island
5. Tiff
9. Church court
13. Eye inflammation
17. Mend socks
18. Apiece
19. Unwritten
20. Those people
21. Etching fluid
22. Quartet member
23. Thaw
24. Raise
25. Jason's wife
27. Jason's ship
29. Quality, in England
31. Home planet
34. Piano novelty
36. Lion's cry
37. Edge of civilization
40. Need
42. Rigid
45. Lout
46. Water nymph
48. Point
50. Songstress
51. "Carmina Burana" composer
53. Bandleader Shaw
54. Wife of Osiris
56. Finis
57. Actress Garr et al.
59. Volunteer State: abbr.
60. Gores
62. Extemporaneous remark
64. Pair
66. Near-sighted cartoon man
67. Bete
68. General Robert
70. "ed Euridice"
73. Floating menagerie
75. Dappled
77. Daggers
79. At a distance
80. Prophet
82. Undercover agent
83. Mr. Chips portrayer
84. "Born in the"
85. Church council
87. Hindu dress
89. Film daredevils
92. Self-satisfied
94. Shallow hollow
96. Nine: prefix
97. Bullfighter
100. Matured

102. Texas town
105. Writer Wister
106. Deities
108. Fruit fiber
111. Unbleached
112. Secular
113. Margarine
114. Brainstorm
115. At that time
116. Unit of force
117. Tilt
118. Contradict
119. Foam

DOWN

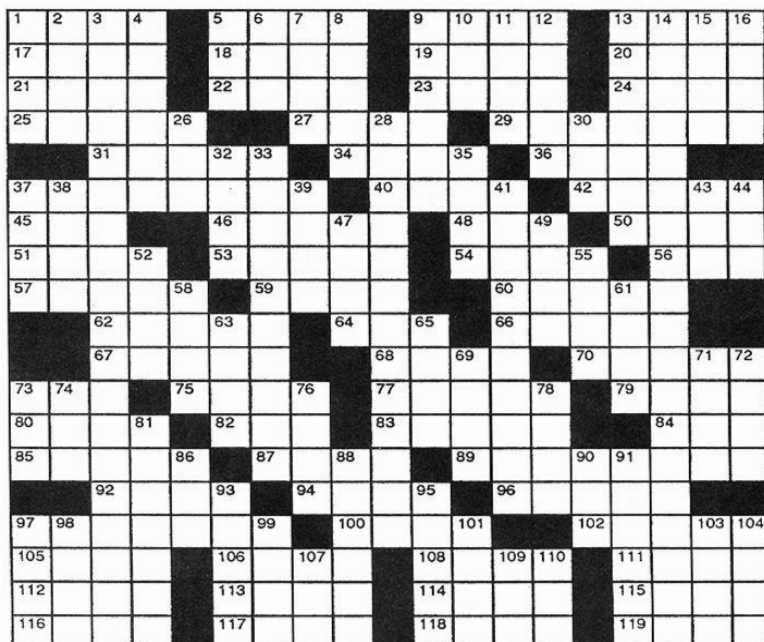
1. Dutch cheese
2. Doily fabric
3. 1935 film, with "The"
4. Of South American mountains
5. Vast expanse
6. Crony
7. Official proceedings
8. Rose prickles
9. Eliot work
10. Metallic dirt
11. Soft mineral
12. Communion table

13. Mark with furrows
14. 1966 film
15. Twelve months
16. "Jane"
26. Actor Carney
28. 50th anniversary
30. Angeles
32. Songstress
33. 1981 film
35. Drama opener
37. Twelve inches
38. Scarce
39. Ceremony
41. 1953 film
43. Five-dollar bill
44. Nourished
47. "Misbehavin' "
49. Pocket bread
52. Cliche dog name
55. Pudding starch
58. Chemise
61. Adriatic wind
63. Blue flag

65. Hodgepodge
69. Sea eagles
71. Facility
72. Algerian port
73. Donkey
74. King: Sp.
76. Couple
78. Daze
81. Love story
86. Defective bomb
88. Motive
90. Opposite of SSW
91. Doctrines
93. "Taras Bulba" author
95. Lukewarm
97. Form
98. Out
99. Part in a play
101. Ranch vacationer
103. Angered
104. Basks
107. Goddess: Latin
109. Actor Cariou
110. Salary

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	5	2	8	7	1	3	9	4
3	7	4	9	6	9	2	8	1
1	8	9	3	2	4	5	6	7
4	3	1	2	9	6	8	7	9
9	9	6	7	8	7	1	2	3
7	2	8	9	1	3	6	7	9
9	1	9	6	7	8	7	3	2
2	6	7	2	3	9	9	1	8
8	7	3	1	9	2	4	9	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance



Cars drive on a highway in the Gulf emirate of Dubai. Debt-laden Dubai is looking to privatise some of its public sector firms as well as offload international assets, but is waiting for the right time for a good return, officials said. (AFP PHOTO)



Protesters burn a placard with a picture of Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen in front of the Irish Parliament building in Dublin. The final shape of Ireland's 85-billion-euro (113-billion-dollar) international bailout has been settled, as European Union finance ministers rolled into Brussels for a show of strength aimed at markets. (AFP PHOTO)



Antonio Tajani, vice-president and commissioner for industry and entrepreneurship at the European Commission, speaks during the opening session of the EU-Africa Business Forum in Tripoli. Libya. Africa's leaders, frustrated after almost a decade of failed efforts to seal trade deals with Europe, are heading into a summit with the European Union this week ready to do battle, or walk out. (AFP PHOTO)

Cotton price surge threatens 'cheap fashion'

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AFP) — In the home of cheap clothing manufacturing, the record price of cotton is causing havoc for producers -- and the pain will pass down the chain to buyers in developed countries, analysts say.

Bangladesh, the third-biggest producer of clothes worldwide, is one of the cheapest locations for manufacturing in the world and its factories churn out clothing for leading brands from Wal-Mart to H & M and Gap.

After reluctantly agreeing to a sharp rise in the minimum wage, under pressure from the government and violent protests from workers, the industry is now grappling with price and supply issues with its main raw material.

Cotton's price on world

markets reached 1.50 dollars a pound (0.45 kilograms) for the first time on November 9, double its level of 12 months ago.

"Top global retailers have for years cut buying prices of clothing to ensure higher profits for their shareholders. But they must now understand that the era of cheap fashion is all but over," Hasan Khaled, former chief of Wal-Mart's Bangladesh buying office, told AFP last week.

"Western consumers will have to bear some pain of higher cotton prices even though they are facing tough times due to the global meltdown," said Khaled, who now buys clothing for US re-



Cotton is hung out to dry in the Bangladeshi town of Narshingdi.

tailers such as Sears and JCPenney.

Eurozone seals deal for banks to share bailout burden

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) — Euro countries agreed yesterday that the private sector will share the burden in future bailouts after an existing emergency fund expires in 2013, a diplomat told AFP.

Bailouts will in future be organised with "case-by-case participation of private sector creditors," the EU source said, and would be "fully consistent with IMF" terms and conditions.

BP to sell Pan American stake to Bidas for \$7 billion

LONDON, England — BP said it had agreed to sell its stake in Argentina-based oil and gas group Pan American Energy (PAE) to Bidas Corp, half-owned by China's CNOOC, for \$7 billion, as it raises cash to pay for the Gulf oil spill.

The planned sale of the 60 percent interest, which sources previously said was under discussion and which was for a price in line with analysts' estimates, brings to \$21 billion the amount that BP has raised, or agreed sales on, in recent months.

BP has said it expects the costs of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill -- the United States' worst

In Dublin, the International Monetary Fund announced the detail of an 85-billion-euro international bailout of Ireland, Europe's second this year after agreeing to pump 110 billion euros into Greece.

But as fears of crashing dominoes across and even beyond the eurozone rise, with Portugal and Spain already in markets' sights and even France "categorically"

denying it was at risk, ministers were determined to fix their approach to a permanent rescue mechanism.

They discussed a Franco-German deal struck in the morning to make the private sector share the future burden, which another source said "foresees contributions on a case-by-case basis."

That was a key demand put forward by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who originally wanted such "haircuts" for creditors -- banks and other financial institutions that buy government bonds, or credit notes -- to be pre-written into contracts at point of sale.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

BEAD	LATE	MIKE	BRAD
LAGE	ICON	EVEN	ROUE
ARC8	TINA	FEEL	EARN
BLOTTED	CATSPAJAMAS		
LIAR	STAY	RED	
PLANT	LEER	DIGESTED	
RIDE	BALD	GUTER	OAR
ONE	TOIL	RACER	ALSO
DESCEND	VICAR	CREEP	
URN	BIGHT	TOE	
SCORN	PIXIE	CARAWAY	
EONS	LADED	DIME	OHO
RAT	HAVEN	PATE	TOOK
FLOWERED	ALLY	REDYE	
IRK	AGUE	HUMP	
BAKERSDOZEN	VAMPIRE		
ELAN	PERU	DOES	ELIA
TILE	USER	EDIT	RENT
STIR	RISE	RELY	ASKS

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Struggling Mexico flight attendants strip for calendar

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (AFP) — Stewardesses from ailing Mexican airline Mexicana posed in sexy outfits in a new calendar aiming to raise money to compensate their losses since the company suspended activities in August.

"We're not models, we don't have perfect bodies, but we want to keep going," said Rozy Arcos, one of the stewardesses

who presented the calendar.

"We're seeking to support our co-workers, faced with necessity after being left without work since August," said Coral Perez, promoter of the initiative.

Heavily indebted Mexicana, one of the world's oldest airlines, suspended all flights in August and a judge granted it bankruptcy protection shortly afterwards.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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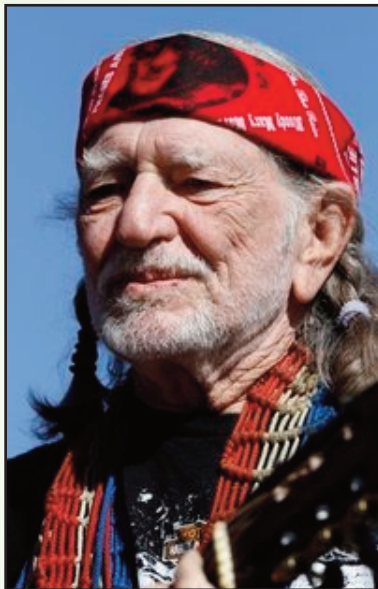
Willie Nelson charged with pot possession in Texas

SIERRA BLANCA, Texas – A U.S. Border Patrol spokesman says country singer Willie Nelson was charged with marijuana possession after 6 ounces was found aboard his tour bus in Texas.

Patrol spokesman Bill Brooks says the bus pulled into the Sierra Blanca, Texas, checkpoint about 9 a.m. Friday. Brooks says an officer smelled pot when a door was opened and a search turned up marijuana.

Brooks says the Hudspeth County sheriff was contacted and Nelson was among three people arrested.

Sheriff Arvin West didn't immediately return a phone message left at his home Friday, but he told the El Paso Times that Nelson claimed the marijuana was his. The



Willie Nelson

singer was held briefly a \$2,500 bond before being released.

Nelson spokeswoman Elaine Schock declined to comment.

Cher a natural diva in 'Burlesque'



LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) – Pop diva Cher has returned to the big screen after a seven-year gap, showing her talents in the musical "Burlesque," -- and helping Christina Aguilera make her feature film debut.

And the well-preserved singer-actress makes no bones about why she did the movie.

"I accepted this role because I was begged to do it," the 64-year-old said on the eve of the film's opening for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in the US.

"Most of the girls were half my age, beautiful, talented, and a blast to work with," she told reporters gathered with some of the film's actors in Beverly Hills.

Dressed in black and sipping soda, a relaxed Cher cracked jokes alongside actor Stanley Tucci, while 29-year-old Aguilera appeared more cautious, wearing heavy make-up and with pet dog "Stinky" in her arms.

Cher's talents were praised by her co-stars including Aguilera, who has separated from her husband of five years Jordan Bratman and said Cher has counseled her.

"She gave me so much advice, both personally and

professionally. She didn't even have to open her mouth. She is just such an incredible presence and person," said the four-time Grammy winner.

Aguilera plays a small-town girl who wants to make it big in Hollywood where she falls under the guidance of Cher, a burlesque club owner. Aguilera also wrote and recorded four new songs for the musical's soundtrack.

Describing Cher as her movie mentor, Aguilera said she has "been there and done everything before any of us came along. I admire and respect that truly."

Cher and Tucci - who plays Cher's stage manager and gay boyfriend - acknowledged their huge popularity among the gay community. But mockingly defending her diva status, Cher asked Tucci: "You have a gay fan base too?"

"Since 'The Devil Wears Prada,'" (2006) answered the 50-year-old Tucci, who is also a film director. "Yeah, so now they're wondering..." he added in jest. "I don't know, we'll see what they say."

"Yeah!" quipped Cher. "Someone told me after they saw the film that it was (Tucci and Cher join in) a

'Gay-Fantasia.'"

Writer-director Steve Antin said "Burlesque" tries to be "risque, always sexy but never sexual."

"Everything we do in this movie, like with original burlesque, is intended to be something enjoyable... and funny and appealing to the mass culture, because burlesque was entertainment for the masses in its original form."

A lifelong fan of musicals and child actor in "The Goonies" (1985), Antin, 52, said Cher and Aguilera were his first choices for the film's roles of burlesque owner Tess and aspiring film star Ali Rose.

"Cher... she's the embodiment of female empowerment, you know. And that's what Burlesque is about: female empowerment."

Cher, who was nominated for an Oscar in 1983 for "Silkwood" and won one for "Moonstruck" in 1987, downplayed the significance of the long gap in silver screen roles in recent years.

"Nothing came to me that I liked except a part in (2008 Abba film hit) 'Mamma Mia', (when) I was on the road and couldn't do, and other than that... I've been busy," she said.

Indian elephant gets root canal for tusk ache

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India (AFP) – Dentists in southern India have performed root canal surgery on a giant scale to rid a 27-year-old elephant of chronic tusk ache, officials said Friday.

A three-member team of dentists helped by a veterinary surgeon carried out the two-and-a-half-hour operation on the male pachyderm which developed a cavity in one of its tusks, they said.

The operation took place in early November after the owner of the pet elephant brought the animal for an ex-

amination of the infection that had damaged the tusk.

"We decided to use the traditional root canal process as a remedy," dentist Sunil Kumar told AFP in state capital Thiruvananthapuram.

He said the elephant was the perfect patient as dentists drilled and pumped resin into the huge cavity in the chipped tusk.

"We needed extra-large instruments and equipment and large quantity of resin to fill the crack," Kumar said.

"For humans, we use only four grams of resin to fill a

cavity but we had to use 188 grams (0.41 pounds) of resin to fill the crack in the elephant's tusk," the dentist said.

Kumar said the tusk was 50 centimeters (1.65 feet) long while the cavity was six centimeters deep.

"During the surgery, the tusk was not tranquilized and he was very cooperative and obeyed his handler," the doctor added.

Elephants play an important ceremonial in Kerala where they are used in religious parades, marriages and social festivities.

Breakfast
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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Eddy Rivera and Ron Wijngarde win the 17th Plaza Golf Open



Eddy Rivera and Ron Wijngarde have won the 17th Plaza Golf Open with a 57.0 net score, leaving Bonnie and Warren Stanly trailing by 0.4 pts.

John Douglas and Ravee Boolchand came third with 59.4, while father-and-son teams Orlando and Ray Rasmijn and Mike and Maurice de l'Isle took fourth and fifth place respectively.

Last year's winners, William and Liam van Ramshorst, were not in a winning mood: they scored 64.9 points and took the 15th place in the two-men scramble event. Nearest to the Pin at Hole # 3 was Rafael Gallardo; Ray Rasmijn followed suit at Pin # 7. Josef Croes, Bart Tijn and Wouter Werkema were Nearest to the Pin at holes 13, 15 and 17.

The prize giving ceremony and preceding and following cocktail hour was once again a most lively affair. No wonder, that a wonderful buffet and lots to drink revived the golfers at Café the Plaza after their strenuous afternoon.

Photos show several teams in action on the course as well as the winners in the company of Tierra del Sol pro and organizer of the 17th Plaza Golf Open Adam Williams.

Head sponsor Café the Plaza is represented by Hans Nooter, who played his tournament together with Rene Veldhuizen.

Placing in the top ten of the 17th Plaza Golf Open:

1. Eddy Rivera – Ron wijngarde (57.0 net)
2. Warren Stanley – Bonnie Stanley (57.4)
3. John Douglas – Ravee Boolchand (59.4)
4. Orlando Rasmijn – Ray Rasmijn (60.0)
5. Mike de l'Isle – Maurice de l'Isle (60.4)
6. Floyd Nedd – Larry Nedd (62.3)
7. Cisco Quant – Patrick Haime (62.7)
8. Frans Brinkman – Matthew Brinkman (63.1)
9. Ernand de l'Isle – Kim Tilleman (63.4)
10. Harold Hagens – Jan Roeloffsvalk (64.1).



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Clasico could be decisive says Ronaldo



MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo admits tonight's Clasico between Barcelona and Real at Camp Nou is vital for both sides saying it could have a significant bearing on who is crowned league champions in May.

Barcelona have won the last four Clasicos on their way to winning back to back league crowns and Portuguese winger Ronaldo believes the importance of the game can not be underestimated despite over two thirds of the season still to go.

"It could be a decisive match as the two sides are so even and these games could decide the championship," said Ronaldo. "It would be difficult for the losing team to take."

"We are stronger than last season and we go into the match without losing a match and have a lot more confidence and solidity."

"The team looks really

good and the coach has given us a lot of confidence."

Ronaldo has scored 14 league goals to top the goalscoring charts and under Jose Mourinho Real are unbeaten starting with ten wins and two draws to lead second-placed Barcelona by a point.

Barcelona thrashed Almeria 8-0 in their last league match to equal the biggest away win in history but Ronaldo is unfazed.

"The 8-0 at Almeria doesn't tell me anything, let's see if they score eight goals against us on Monday," declared the former Manchester United man.

"Barcelona is still a very difficult team. Barca is a very strong team, especially when they play at home. They are there to fight for the league title."

The Spanish press have hyped up the game as a battle between Ronaldo, the most expensive player in the world, and Barcelona's Ballon D'Or winner Lionel Messi who has 13 league goals to his name.

"Talking about a duel between myself and Messi is nonsense," Ronaldo. "I am just one player and I don't think I have more pressure than my team-mates. We all have the responsibility to perform well."

"I am not obsessed by scoring goals and I am not obsessed by scoring against Barcelona."

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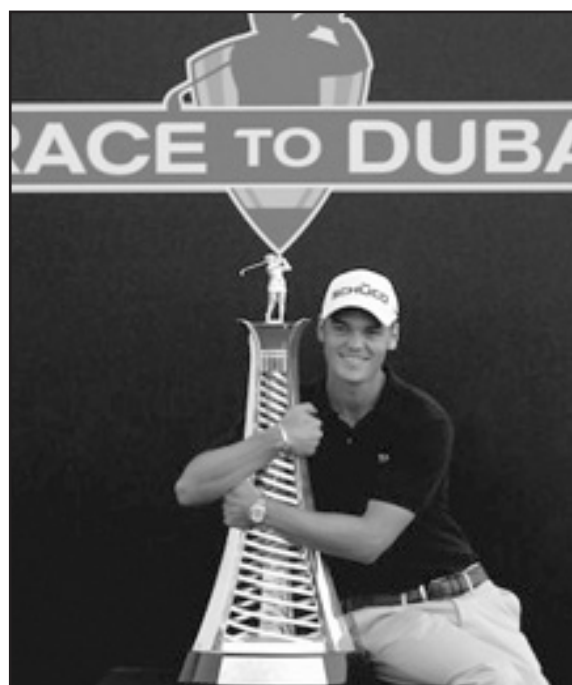
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Karlsson pips Poulter as Kaymer wins Race to Dubai



Martin Kaymer (L), Robert Karlsson of Sweden with the winners trophy (R)

DUBAI (AFP) - Sweden's Robert Karlsson denied Ian Poulter back-to-back titles on the European Tour when he won the 7.5 million dollar Dubai World Championship after a thrilling playoff battle

that stretched to the second extra hole Sunday.

Karlsson has had a dramatic past two years since finishing the 2008 season as Europe's No.1. In 2009 he feared he was going blind following a debilitating eye problem, and he was out of action for more than a month this year with glandular fever.

But the Swede announced his return to vintage form as he first chased down and caught up with overnight leader Poulter, and then beat him in the playoff.

While Karlsson and Poulter were battling it out, Germany's Martin Kaymer finished tied 13th at six-under par 282 and won the Race to Dubai to become the new European No.1, succeeding current world number one Lee Westwood in the process.

Kaymer, who turns 26 in exactly one month, has become the Tour's youngest No.1 since Ronan Rafferty in 1989. The honour was confirmed the moment it was clear that his only challenger

for the crown, Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell, will not be able to finish any better than tied third.

Cavs' coach Scott fined for blasting referees

NEW YORK (AFP) - The NBA fined Cleveland coach Byron Scott 35,000 dollars on Sunday for publicly criticising game officials.

NBA Executive Vice President Stu Jackson announced the sanction for remarks Scott made after the Cavaliers' 110-100 loss at Orlando on Friday.

Scott criticised officials Ed Malloy, Bennie Adams and Kevin Fehr, saying it was difficult to play an opponent where "there's five white jerseys and three with stripes... It's hard when you're playing against eight people."

He also complained about what he called the crew's inconsistent officiating.

Scott had never been fined in previous coaching stints

India beat New Zealand in one-day opener

GUWAHATI (AFP) - India secured a convincing 40-run victory in the first one-day international against New Zealand on Sunday, as Virat Kohli scored 105.

India's total of 276 looked enough, and New Zealand were out of contention at 169 for 8 after 36 overs before a quick ninth-wicket partnership of 67 between Nathan McCullum and Kyle Mills offered them a glimmer of hope.

But McCullum's dismissal in the 45th over allowed India to finish as the easy winners in gloomy conditions at the Nehru Stadium in Guwahati.

Kohli's century was the highlight of the game, with the right-handed number three scoring 100 off 100 balls before falling to Andy McKay, New Zealand's most effective bowler, caught by Jamie How in the 43rd over.

McKay pinned India back

with four wickets for 62 runs, as the hosts' stand-in captain Gautam Gambhir scored 38 and Murali Vijay and Yusuf Pathan both chipped in with 29.

India's regular captain M.S. Dhoni was rested along with other top stars such as Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Harbhajan Singh for the start of the five-match series.

New Zealand's regular captain Daniel Vettori was also missing due to back stiffness following the three-game Test series between the teams, which India won 1-0 with victory in Nagpur.

Ross Taylor took over Vettori's post, and top scored with 66 as his side struggled to keep up with the required run rate of 5.66 an over.

Wicketkeeper and explosive opening batsman Brendon McCullum was also absent from the touring side with back trouble, with Gareth Hopkins taking over duties behind the stumps.

New Zealand had won the toss and elected to bowl as they took into account the Guwahati ground's reputation as a tricky track to bat on early in the day.

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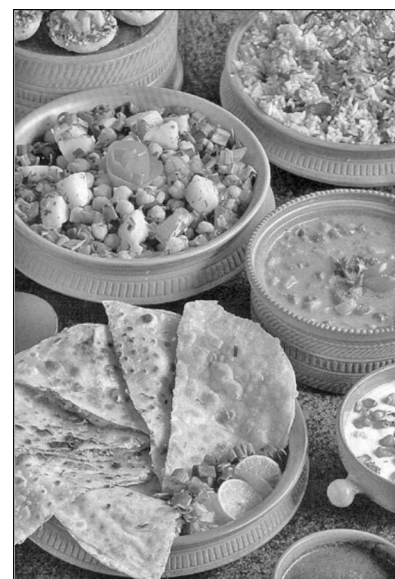
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FIFA hit by fresh corruption allegations

ZURICH (AFP) - New allegations of corruption have arisen just days before FIFA executive committee members are due to vote on football's World Cup hosts in 2018 and 2022, Swiss newspaper SonntagsZeitung reported.

The newspaper said a list of FIFA officials who have taken "millions in payments" is circulating.

"There are many names from postbox companies," an anonymous Swiss resident who has seen the list told the newspaper, which explained that some FIFA executive committee members are hiding behind these companies.

The newspaper added that a well-known member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is also on the list.

The fresh allegations come just a week after FIFA's fledgling ethics body slapped unprecedented one to three year suspensions on two executive committee members over misconduct or bribery on November 18, sidelining them from voting.



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Federer out-lasts Nadal to take Tour Finals crown

LONDON (AFP) - Roger Federer won the ATP World Tour Finals for the fifth time after beating Rafael Nadal 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in Sunday's final at the O2 Arena in London.

Federer takes home a cheque for 1.63 million dollars as well as 1,500 ranking points but, far more importantly, he ended the year by scoring a significant victory over his biggest rival and, in the process, emphasised that he is still as hungry for success as ever.

It was Federer's first triumph in the prestigious end-of-season event since 2007 and his dominant form in the English capital this week

suggests Nadal will face a renewed challenge for the sport's top prizes next year.

Nadal has enjoyed the best season of his career over the last 12 months and he shone again this week, but even he had no answer to Federer, the world number two, at his breath-taking best.

Although Nadal and Federer have been the pre-eminent forces in recent years, they had met only three times over the last two seasons, with the Spaniard winning their last encounter in the final of May's Madrid Masters.

Their showdown here was the perfect way to end a sea-



son in which Nadal had dethroned Federer as world number one and also re-

gained the French Open and Wimbledon titles from the Swiss star.

Nadal had won 14 of their previous 21 meetings, of which 18 had been finals, and the most famous of those was also their last in London, back in 2008, when Nadal triumphed in five sets to win his first Wimbledon title in a match widely regarded as the best of all time.

But Federer has played all week like a man with a point to prove and he looked in the mood as he held serve to love in the opening game.

He had promised to take the attack to Nadal and the 29-year-old's forehand was

proving an impossible weapon to subdue. He used it to finish off the best rally of the first set in emphatic fashion in the fifth game.

Nadal recovered from the loss of that point to hold serve but he was broken in the eighth game as Federer finally shattered the Spaniard's resistance.

Once again it was Federer's forehand that caused the problems as he unloaded another winner to bring up break point before converting the chance with a perfect backhand that left Nadal groping in vain for a return.

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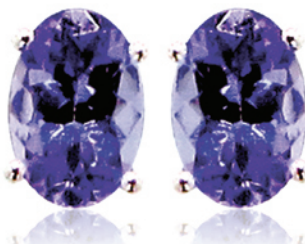


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